



Border Riders Newsletter

December 1, 2016

Welcome!

The Border Riders Motorcycle Club (BRMC) is an organized group of guys who like to ride and camp. Our membership spans the Pacific Northwest, with the greatest participation in Portland, Seattle, and Vancouver B.C. We have one of the largest memberships of gay clubs in North America, and welcome like-minded guests to join us on our monthly club events and local activities during the riding months. Check the main page of the website at www.borderriders.com for additional information.

November Club Meeting

The November meeting was held at Michael Chavor's home. The holiday party and banquet were discussed amongst other business. It was nice to finally get together again after having to cancel the October meeting due to weather concerns.

From the Handlebars of the President

Dear Brothers,

Here we are at the end of another year. It looks like most of us made it through relatively unscathed (more or less), and the BRMC has thrived another year because of your participation. Fortunately for me you make that all too easy and I thank you. We had a lot of runs at first-time locations so we experienced a lot of new roads and towns that I hadn't seen before. Thank you to Mark for doing such an amazing job as our Road Captain. We all can't thank you enough. I also want to thank the rest of the board for all the work you do to make our club run smoothly. I also appreciate all of you who gave me feedback and guidance this year to help me do my job better. Your patience and kindness is most appreciated.

We had a good meeting at Michael Chavor's where we began discussing what we as a club would like to do for our 50th anniversary year in 2019. It is hard to believe that it's just over two years away and this will probably be discussed at every meeting until then. If you have any ideas or suggestions please let us know.

That's about all I have for the newsletter portion. I'm still trying to get the hang of this newsletter writing thing, so I'm not sure what else to include. So I will now veer off on another subject.

If you were at the meeting or have read the minutes you will know that there are two of us running for President this year. I can't remember the last time more than one person ran for a position. I decided I would like to try doing this another year and Jeff Connor was also nominated and has accepted. I'm not sure if there is any protocol for how to campaign for the position but I have chosen to make my case here in this newsletter and I have invited Jeff to do the same. So here goes.

Border Riders Newsletter

First of all, I want to say that I know that Jeff is a qualified and experienced candidate and I'm confident he would do an excellent job if you choose to elect him. I am asking to be elected even though little in my life has prepared me for such an endeavor. For those of you who don't know me well, I have lived a fairly solitary existence for most of my life, by choice, and have been self-employed since I was 20, rarely ever working with anybody, again by choice.

That started to change when I was 48 and decided to join the BRMC because I wanted to experience a deeper connection with other men. Over the years I have come to love and trust you all and I have experienced the deeper connection that I was looking for. I am grateful for having the privilege of sharing that with a group such amazing men. I never thought I would ever be in a leadership role let alone the president of an organization that I love. Were it not for a series of unexpected circumstances I don't know if I would have ever run for the position myself. I'm not sure how any of my life experiences would have prepared me for the job other than knowing that I am an experienced learner.

I have learned a great deal these past eight months and I am extremely eager to learn more. This job has done a great deal to push me out of my comfort zone by requiring me to engage with other members regarding club business and confronting my sense of vulnerability when I do things like writing articles for the newsletter. I do not know if I possess all leadership skills, and whether or not I will be able to learn them, but the only way I will find out is if you give me the chance.

What I do bring to the table is an open intelligent mind, an open heart, a willingness to listen, a desire to understand, compassion, empathy, an ability to make informed choices and decisions, and the understanding that I may be wrong or unintentionally do and say things that may cause hurt to others. However, I do have a willingness to acknowledge my mistakes, to learn from them, and make amends where necessary. Those of you who know me well, know that I do a lot of personal growth work both for myself and assisting others on their journeys. I view serving as your president as another opportunity for personal growth and an opportunity to serve an organization and people for whom I have a great deal of admiration and respect. All I ask is that if you feel I have the potential to do this job that you consider voting for me.

Thank you for your time.

Dan Sweer, President BRMC

Road Captain Rumblings

Hello my Biker Brothers. I hope this holiday season is finding you all well. Personally, I think the Southern Hemisphere has it right; having Christmas and New Year holidays during Summer when it's a lot nicer to ride and everyone is having time off from work.

I don't have much to report this month. I tried my best to reserve a group campsite for the August 2017 solar eclipse but was not able to. Oregon changed the way it did reservations for those sites under and near the totality and with my finger on the mouse at 12:00:59am on Thursday the 17th, I still was not fast enough to get one of the four sites I had my eye on. I have to give the people I work with credit, they know the Club means a lot to me and had no problem with me hogging the

Border Riders Newsletter

fastest computer when I needed it. With people from all over the world are grabbing up everything they can, it was a tough race.

I still have a few options and I will be watching the sites to see if any come available. I will keep you all in touch. I was trying to get a site on the eastern side of the state where it was more likely to be cloudless. If anyone has any ideas for a site, or private land we could camp on, please let me know. I will be able to reserve the September 2017 site next month so my Rumblings for Jan will include all the sites for next year.

Have a wonderful holiday season with your family and friends.

Love and Peace for 2017

Mark Brayford, Road Captain

December Holiday Party and Registration

Register for the December Holiday Party in Burlington, WA: December 10th, 2016

As we end out the year, we will continue to get together each month. The December Holiday Party will be devoted to nothing but social time!

Our Border Riders December Holiday Party is hosted by Chris and Richard in Burlington, Washington. The dinner fee is \$20 for members and guests. Upon registration you will receive an informational email with directions and other useful information.

You may arrive any time after 4 PM on Saturday the 10th. A group photo and dinner will follow with additional time to socialize. Dinner will include a vegetarian option.

Registration closes at 9 PM on Wednesday December 7th so we can get a head count for food. No refunds after close.

Guests who do not have an account on the BRMC website should contact a member to be sponsored if they wish to attend the club meeting.

We will have a \$10 *white elephant* gift exchange, so make it good!

This event is a BYOB option. Please be responsible.

Some options for overnight stays:

- The Skagit Casino Resort, 5984 Darrk Ln, Bow, WA 98232; (877) 275-2448
- The Skagit Ridge Hotel, 18444 Bow Hill Rd, Bow, WA 98232; (360) 724-0640
- Stay at their place, but pre arrange

Border Riders Newsletter

November Birthdays

We have two members with December Birthdays:
Peter Loewen (December 2) and Richard Ammons (December 14)
Take a moment to wish them a great day.

Calendar

December 10, 2016	Holiday Party – Chris and Richard, Burlington, WA
January 21, 2017	Annual General Meeting, Seattle Cuff
February 18, 2017	Awards Banquet, Mayflower Park Hotel, Seattle

Send Us Your Photos

The website has a place for our registered members and guests to easily upload photos you might take on day rides or trips. You can also easily upload photos directly from your smartphone. If you have a large number of photos or videos let us know and we can provide an easier process. You can also send photos to news@borderriders.com

